

# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Greenfield Hall

Volume 53, No. 3

343 Kings Highway East - Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

September 2009

# A SUNDAY AFTERNOON ON WARWICK ROAD

THE STORY OF THE HADDONFIELD HOME September 27, Sunday afternoon at 2:00, 132 Warwick Road

Our fall season will open on September 27 at a different place and time than usual. Our general meeting will be held not in Greenfield Hall but at the Haddonfield Home, 132 Warwick Road on a Sunday afternoon, not a Wednesday evening. We have been invited by Pat McEvoy, Community Relations Director, to be guests of the Home where we will enjoy a program about the history of the facility and be

given a tour of the historic building.

Refreshments created by Mrs. Bailey, Food Service Director, known for her tasty desserts, will be a treat for all. Join us as we kick off our 2009-2010 season.

The following article written by Kathy Tassini will give us some background information about this elegant Victorian house.

# THE HADDONFIELD HOME, 132 WARWICK ROAD

by Kathy Tassini

The house which now serves as the cornerstone of the Haddonfield Home at 132 Warwick Road has, over its long life span, had many owners whose involvement with the community of Haddonfield has been a reflection of both the good and bad economic times that the country and community have experienced.

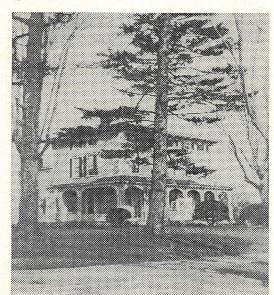
Originally part of the 500 acre tract of land owned by Haddonfield's first European settler, Francis Collins, the land on which the house stands was continually subdivided until 1854 when David Roe, who lived at the corner of what we know today as Warwick Road and Kings Highway West, sold George Earp, merchant, of the City of Philadelphia, 42.96 acres which were subdivided into

eight parcels along both sides of Warwick Road at a cost of \$17,184.56. The hefty price was most likely due to the coming of the Camden and Atlantic Railroad to Haddonfield which increased land values, especially for property near the new railroad.

By January of 1855, Mr. Earp found himself in financial difficulty and turned the properties over to Frederick R. Backus of Philadelphia with the instructions to settle his debts by selling them off. In March of 1856, Backus sold the 2.47 acre plot which we now know as 132 Warwick Road to John S. Wilson of Moorestown for \$915.00. Between March of 1856 and November of 1856, it appears that the house which stands today must have been built because Mr. Wilson sold the property to Samuel Stokes Hillman and his wife, Rebecca, For \$4,500. The large jump in cost is indicative of a major change to the property, most likely the construction of the house.

The house, interestingly, is almost a duplicate of the house that had been built down Snow Hill Road, as Warwick Road was then called, for the marriage of John Gill V to Elizabeth Tomlinson in 1853. That house, which was originally called The Evergreens and later Haddon Farms, was destroyed by fire in the 1970's.

(continued on the third page)



From the Hillman Family Collection, c.1914

RESIDENT'S PAGE

by Dianne Snodgrass

Here we are. It is September - yes, already! It has been a busy time over the summer at your Society. Events and planning for future fund raisers have kept your officers and committee chairs quite active. And you thought we were closed in August!

Unfortunately, we must postpone the October 10 Garage Sale. The garage is currently being used by the restoration team working on the Mickle House. It is taking them longer than anticipated because of the complexity of the project and some weather–related delays. Since we cannot use the garage, it is impossible for us to collect items and go forward with the sale at this time. We will be organizing one in the spring.

Our rentals have increased. There have been six since June. We have had three picnics, a spectacular wedding, a graduation party and a surprise birthday party. Keep the Society in mind for your next bout of entertaining.

The Samuel Mickle House exterior work was able to start in July. This was a major postponement due to such an extended rainy spring. Jim Hansen Painting and crew are well underway with historic paint removal as this is written. The care they are giving to these old boards is over and above all expectations. Thank you!

The Cellar Collection is now back in business and ready for tours. As you recall, HSH replaced the heating system this time last year. Juggling the collections down there to make room for the workmen was no small task and much time was spent putting the displays back together.

About our September general meeting: save this date - Sunday, September 27 at 2 p.m. Note that this will take place at the Haddonfield Home at 132 Warwick Road, Haddonfield. Their phone number is 856-429-5500 if you require directions or have other questions. The history of the "Perkins House," the original home on the property, will be the program topic. Mrs. Bailey will be providing refreshments; we are requesting her homemade Jewish Apple Cake!

Barbara Hilgen, our Office Manager, will be retiring at the end of December 2009. This is an announcement which brings with it memories of laughter, seriousness, silliness, business, friendship, dedication. I know you will all join me in wishing Barbara all the best our thoughts can bring for "her" time. Please read the article on Barbara elsewhere in this Bulletin. Thank you, Barbara, for all that you have done for the Society. This short paragraph comes nowhere close to expressing the bittersweet emotions I and many others are feeling at this time of transition. Thank you, Barbara, for being you.

Our Calendar of Events is now appearing on the outside of the *Bulletin*. HSH will be running the Halloween Events and the Holly Festival. Look at the Calendar for dates and times of these and other events.

I am confident I can count on you to support our fund raisers and educational events. As always, the Society relies on you to carry on its business of library and museum work. Thank you in advance for your help.

## RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

- 1. A pair of walnut Chippendale side chairs, c. 1760, originating with the Gill family, signed "I Duncan," from the Estate of Averill K. Tomlinson by Carol Lynch
- 2. Baseball bat, Louisville Slugger, Ty Cobb trademark,c. 1920s used by John Danenhower, father of donor Betty
- 3. Sled, snow, Flexible Flyer #2, c. 1920s, used by John Danenhower, father of donor Betty Danenhower Rhoads

Danenhower Rhoads

4. **Plate, commemorative,** 10" round, Haddonfield's 250th anniversary, scene Greenfield Hall, donor Betty Danenhower Rhoads

- 5. Plate, commemorative, 10" round, NJ Tercentenary, produced by Historical Society of Haddonfield, donor Betty Danenhower Rhoads
- 6. **Ash trays, two, commemorative**, 5" square, Haddonfield's 250th anniversary, scene Hip Roof House, scene Greenfield Hall, donor Betty Danenhower Rhoads
- 7. Plates, commemorative, 10" round, Haddonfield scenes: Indian King Tavern, Elizabeth Haddon Estaugh, Episcopal Church, First Baptist Church, Lutheran Church, Haddonfield Public Library, First Presbyterian Church, c. 1950, donor Barbara Puntin

Samuel Stokes Hillman was a member of an early and prominent family in South Jersey, born in Ellisburg, NJ on August 18, 1816. His wife, Rebecca Ford, was born in Gibbstown, NJ on February 7, 1816 and the two married in Philadelphia on March 12, 1840. They were thirty years old and the parents of three sons and one daughter when they purchased the property on Warwick (then Snow Hill) Road. The Hillmans owned the property until October 2, 1865 when they sold it to Emma D. Sorver, wife of Joseph D. Sorver of Haddonfield, for \$5,500.00, taking back a mortgage of \$2,500.00 on the property.

Joseph and Emma Sorver owned the property for seven years, until February of 1872 when they sold the 2.47 acres to Joel S. Perkins of Philadelphia for a total of \$7,000.00. The Sorver family went on to build a "new" Victorian on West End Avenue in Haddonfield. The Perkins family lived at the property until 1895 when it was sold to D. Frank Robinson of Lawrence, MA and Henry H. Gallup of Norwich, CT fo \$5,700.00. It appears that neither of these families ever occupied the property. Perhaps they rented it, a not uncommon practice in those days. In any event they finally sold it in 1902.

In 1902 the house was bought by William W. Hodgson for \$3,000.00. The Hodgson family lived there until 1934 when, following the death of William W. Hodgson, First Camden National Bank and Trust Company notified Hodgson's wife, Katherine, that the estate was insolvent and the court ordered a sale of the property. The bank held a mortgage for \$25,000 on the property and ended up buying the house back at auction for the sum of \$16,736.00. William W. Hodgson had died on Nov. 23, 1931

October 16, 1936 First Camden National Bank and Trust Co. sold the property to Dorothy S. Flinn who is already listed as living at the house according to the Haddonfield Directories. She is given a deed for the house for the sum of \$100.00, a transaction we are still trying to figure out. Whatever her plans, this was still a bad economic time for the country. As a result, two years later, in October 1938, Dorothy S. Flinn sold the property to First Camden Nation Bank and Trust for \$1.00 to avoid foreclosure.

From October 1938 until April 25, 1944 First Camden National Bank and Trust was the owner of the property. In the few directories from that period, no one is listed at that address although it is hard to believe that it was not even rented during that time. It was finally sold to Edwin L. and Mildred R. Suderberg of the Borough of Haddonfield for \$10,000.

Interestingly, Mr. Suderberg worked for Joel S. Perkins Co. in Gloucester City as an auditor and accountant. The Suderbergs remained in the house until June 2, 1952 when they sold it to The Presbyterian Home of the Synod of New Jersey for \$35,000.00.

In newspaper articles of the day, the Presbyterian Homes indicated their intent to build a large brick building behind the original structure which was to serve as a residence for elderly women. Since that purchase, the property has evolved as the care of the elderly has evolved to serve the varying needs of the elderly of the region. Many families have enjoyed the comfort of good care and easy proximity of loved ones who chose to live at 132 Warwick Road in what is now known as the Haddonfield Home.

## LIBRARY NEWS by Kathy Tassini

For any of you who have driven past Greenfield Hall this summer, it is obvious that the Samuel Mickle House and thus the library are undergoing some major and very necessary repairs and restoration on the outside. It has resulted in quite a bit of moving of materials on the inside away from certain areas of the building that are particularly affected. Once the repairs and painting are completed, we will be able to re-organize the materials and hopefully provide good service for all of you, our researchers. We hope that you will bear with us while things are in a somewhat disrupted state when we re-open.

The library re-opens on Tuesday, September 8th and resumes its regular fall-winter schedule of Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 and the first Sunday of October, November and December from 1-3 PM. As usual, appointments for other times are also available. For those of you who are really planning ahead and need a reminder, both the library and museum are closed for the week between Christmas and New Year.

## **OUR ZEZE**

The library volunteer group was sadly diminished this

past spring with the sudden and unexpected death of one of our longest-serving and most faithful volunteers, Zenia (Zeze) Zaleski. Zeze had volunteered almost every Tuesday morning beginning in 1993. Although she lost her hearing suddenly due to a severe illness in 1996, Zeze never complained or felt sorry for herself. She was so interested in others, in the world, and in the local history with which she became so intimately involved over the years. She used to sit in the manuscript room upstairs, right by the window - she called it her aerie - and sort and organize many of the larger collections which were donated to the Society. Among her many accomplishments were the organizing of the very large and important Rhoads Family Papers as well as the Danenhower Family Papers which have been coming to the Society over the last thirty years. She loved finding little treasures in the materials she was working on and really enjoyed her last project, the HATCH records from the creation and installation of the "Haddy" sculpture downtown. Zeze was a very special person with the most upbeat and positive attitude that buoyed everyone around her. She is deeply missed

# REMEMBERING THE COOL, WET SPRINGTIME OF 2009 AND PROGRESS IN THE MUSEUM CELLARS

by Don Wallace

Did you count the mushrooms in your lawn last June? We're growing them, too, in the Museum Cellars because our dehumidifiers, while straining hard, are not dehumidifying! Replacement time! I hope that when the new heater starts up again in the fall, all of our iron artifacts will not have rusted away.

Back on the first day of summer, June 21, at the Westmont ACE Hardware, a fellow customer also seeking PVC fittings was complaining about all the rain we'd been having. I asked him, jokingly, if he had any mushrooms in his lawn? He responded that his sister had just lost her two dogs who had eaten the smallest toadstools! Please, let this be a warning to all!

In putting things back in place, or finding new ways to display all of our artifacts in the wet Museum Cellars, I have had to handle some of our objects which receive less attention than they deserve. For instance, in the domestic quarter I came across an old carpet sweeper with the trade-mark "HADDON." Having never been aware of this brand, I still feel that by virtue of its brand name, it should remain right where it is. If there is a story behind this brand name, we would sure like to hear about it.

A new position for an old artifact that was here when I arrived in 1996 is the very substantial steel-framed sign with legs. I remember seeing it displayed in front of The Haddon Fortnightly building at the corner of King's Highway and Grove Street when walking home from HMHS. That was between 1946 and 1950. It was built to last and reads on both sides: "Haddon Assembly - ARTISANS ORDER OF MUTUAL PROTECTION - Meets Here Tonight." Since it is very professionally hand painted, I've placed this sign "up front" where it can be seen as you descend the cellar stairs. With all of these tools here, we certainly do honor all ARTISANS! I wonder if there is a record of who painted this sign? A Haddonfield sign painter? One of our own artisans?

A five-gallon gas can from a World War II jeep now has a photograph of General George S. Patton placed on its top. This picture and the gas can came together out of the shadows when I learned only recently that the entire war in Europe was supplied by these gas cans. There were no pipelines or tanker trucks to bring gasoline to the battlefront as it progressed toward the Rhine River (Rhein, as the Germans spell it)...and then on to Berlin. Can you imagine that all of our tanks, trucks, and jeeps got their gas this way? Don't you think this deserves special recognition of such an inauspicious object? If, as it is said, "We got there the fastest with the mostest," it sure wasn't easy! What puzzles me is that this can is brown, not olive-drab. What do you make of that?

Gus Winder, our senior volunteer, seems to be winding down these days. But I'm hoping to have him hang a "Coke" advertising sign on the stone wall next to our pharmaceutical display case. I'm trying to tie in the old drug store medicines with the soda fountain objects which we remember from our youth. Coleman's, Heverly-Walker, Flitcraft's...does anyone remember if Flitcraft's had a soda fountain before Coleman's? I think Heverly-Walker was purely an apothecary. One of those gentleman donated most of the old treatments and cures that we proudly display today. These were all occupants of the property now housing the antiques consignment mall. Then there was also "Thor's" at the corner of Tanner and Kings Highway, with a major soda fountain.

Sitting at the very edge of the Domestic Quarter, next to the carriage maker's tool display, is a huge cabbage slicer. It hovers over and above the big sauerkraut crock made in York, Pa. with its krauthammer in position as an honor to Charles K. himself. If these objects could speak, it would be English with a German accent from the towns of Roebling and Trenton, New Jersey where my wife Caryl's maternal family lived, worked, worshiped and participated in Church suppers and civic dinners. We have given our other Roebling artifacts and tools to the newly opened Main Gatehouse Museum. That rehabilitated building has just been turned over by the EPA to the Roebling Historical Society and by this fall should be packed with those donated artifacts and others. I will be sounding the ready signal when it's time to visit Roebling, N.J.

There are also loads of ephemera scattered throughout these Museum Cellars atop collections. Clipped articles from newspapers, magazines, books, pamphlets, "The Tool Shed" from *CRAFTS* of New Jersey and our own *Bulletin* which provide any browser among our collections with additional information about our tools and artifacts, should he or she wish to dig more deeply into the essence of our tool collections. I've never seen this done before in other museums, and it may add to the chaos and clutter of this crowded museum; but it could also, hopefully, serve to inform future organizer-designers as they over-simplify in order to create a sterile, self-guided experience here.

Have we ever talked about our horse anchors? We have two horse anchors. These were used at churches and meeting houses, wherever a horse and carriage needed to wait for its driver. A long chain originally accompanied the round anchor which I had purchased at the Friends Meeting House on Route 130 (formerly Rt. 25) at Chester Avenue in Cinnaminson. This one anchor could hold many horses hooked up to that long chain. If the horses had been smart enough to work in unison, I hate to think about

what a parade that would have made.

The other anchor looks more like a gate weight which also would have hung on a chain between the gate and its post, thereby closing the gate automatically after one's opening it and passing through. But this is much larger than it needs to be to provide that service. Both horse anchors reside in our horse corner.

So, you see, there is much more in these objects than just a plain old collection of hardware. Yet they were just matter-of-fact hardware made and used to make life easier back in Great Grandma's youth and even earlier.

It must be time for you to visit again to see our reorganization which has resulted from the heater replacement. We've got it all working together for a more thorough tour experience. Come see everything on display now. But remember, it's still a cellar! Hopefully we'll have new dehumidifiers in place and working to make it comfortable by then. It is the iron and steel objects that are threatened most by all this humidity which rises through our porous brick floor. More about that later, I hope.

# 2009 HISTORY AWARD

by Dianne Snodgrass

For many years the Historical Society of Haddonfield has given an award to a graduating senior from Haddonfield Memorial High School. The recipient is chosen by the Social Studies Department. Senior Awards Night is a very special evening, indeed, and is the time when this award is presented. As your President, I have attended the ceremonies to participate.

In 2009 the Society's award went to one of "our own" children, Thomas Biddle, son of Ann and Rick Biddle. Ann is one of our Trustees and is Chair of the Education Programming done at Greenfield Hall. Rick is a most supportive husband and has volunteered in a variety of capacities over the years.

Ann and I presented Thomas with his award from the Society which is a signed copy of our book, *Lost Haddonfield*, and a modest check. The following is Thomas's thank you to the Society.

I would like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to you and the membership of the Historical Society of Haddonfield for the recent award I received from the Society. The Historical Society has been an important part of the Biddle family for quite a while, so it was an especially meaningful event for me. It was made even more memorable because my Mom was able to present the award to me.

Thank you for making that possible. The memory of my Mom's surprise when my name was called will stand out as one of the highlights of my years at Haddonfield Memorial High School.

It is a wonderful feeling to come from a town like Haddonfield, where students are supported not only by their family and friends but by the whole community. I will carry that support into my college career and study of history.

Thank you again for the honor of receiving the Historical Society of Haddonfield History Award.

Sincerely, Thomas

Thomas, HSH wishes you all the best as you move on to study history at Cabrini College.

# A HADDONFIELD CHINESE CONNECTION

from Dianne Snodgrass

The following is a most interesting letter about a local family which we received from Barbara Puntin. I hope you enjoy this. Perhaps some of you remember the laundries in town.

My parents, Richard and Alice (Marshall) Ding both grew up in Haddonfield through the Depression. My grandmother, Ella (Miller) Marshall was active in the Methodist Church for many years before moving, in the mid '80's, to the Methodist home in Ocean City and then to Pitman Manor when my grandfather died. My other grandmother, Sunhop Ding, ran a laundry in 2 different locations in Haddonfield after emigrating from China as a child-bride. I barely remember the second laundry on Kings Highway near what is now the PATCO station from my childhood in the early '70's. She is still alive and living with her remaining 2 sons (Herbert and Walter) in Cherry Hill. We estimate she's about 102 or so. Her other son, Franklin, died a few years ago. Both her daughters, my aunts, are still living in the area (Henrietta and Elizabeth).

Dad just died in May (2007) and Mom has moved to Collingswood Manor. We're cleaning out their house and among other things, I found a set of 8 cream-colored commemorative plates, absolutely like new, from the 1950's, printed in black with town landmarks like the Indian King and churches. My husband and I are moving within the next year and are trying to get rid of excess stuff, and though the plates are beautiful, we just don't have space and I'd like to give them to you folks if you want them.

So -- We are also curious about what else you might be interested in as we've run across a variety of pictures in good shape: a graduation picture of my father from the 1940's. As well, I have pictures of Dad from his early career in the stock-car and midget racing circuits and have been trying to verify his career; we believe he was one of the first Chinese to work professionally in the car-racing industry. We also believe my parents were one of the earliest interracial couples in Haddonfield, married in 1964.

Thanks very much! Barbara Puntin

# PROGRESS ON THE SAMUEL MICKLE HOUSE

by Ruth Sine

Now that the constant spring rain has abated, work continues on the restoration of the Samuel Mickle House which is the home of historic books and documents. Many Haddonfield residents have been able to research the histories of their own homes using the resources of the Mickle House and its volunteers.

The front portion of the house dates back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The walls have "nogging," or masonry infill between the timbers. The rear shed portion of the house is modern, rebuilt when the house was moved for the second time to its current site. While it is clear from photographs that some of the vertical siding was replaced when windows were removed, we are treating all the siding in the front portion of the house as antique.

The old horizontal and vertical original sidings have a very rough texture. Since the existing paint consisted of many layers which were incompatible, they had to be removed. A heat source could not be used because of the extreme risk of fire. Various dry abrasive media blasts were considered (corn cobs, walnut shell) but rejected because of the risk of dust seeping into the historic archives. Sanding would destroy the rough texture of the wood. A chemical stripper was somewhat successful but failed to remove one type of existing paint.

Jim Hansen, who is the craftsman in charge of the restoration, decided to hand-scrape all of the old siding. This is a slow and painstaking process. The clapboards on the east side, which showed the most deterioration and peeling, are

being removed



Tediously working away

and treated on both sides. The house is being restored as carefully as one would treat fine antique furniture from that era.

The Historical Society is grateful for funds which were raised for this project from the 2007 Holiday House Tour.

# BARBARA HILGEN TO RETIRE

by Dianne Snodgrsss

After 12 plus years with the Historical Society of Haddonfield, Barbara Hilgen, our Office Manager, has made the difficult decision to retire. She plans to be in the office until the end of December 2009. Three presidents have had the pleasure of working with her on a day to day basis: Joe Murphy, Bob Marshall and Dianne Snodgrass. The continuity Barbara has provided to the business of our organization is unparalleled. Part time to Barbara isn't anyone else's definition of part time as she has given her all and HSH has been the beneficiary.

Barbara may be leaving as our Office Manager but she most certainly plans to continue her volunteering as our Membership Chair. As well, she has signed on for "whatever and where ever I am needed," to post a direct quote. Barbara and Bob are planning trips, excursions with their wonderful family and "who knows what else," according to Barbara. One thing is for sure, their retirement will be packed full of excitement. Never a dull moment!

HSH, of course, now is in the process of filling the Office Manager position. It is a 9 hour per week job and the first Sunday afternoon per month. We are looking for a person with good computer skills. If you or anyone you know would be interested in applying, please contact the Society at 856-429-7375.

#### COME TO THE INDIAN KING TAVERN

The Friends of the Indian King Tavern invite the public to the Tavern's open house on Saturday, September 19, between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. Visitors will be time-travelers back to September 1789 as they listen to war veterans remember the battles that they survived. Children ages 6 to 12 will be recruited into the militia and, with wooden muskets, be drilled in the manual of arms. Others will practice loading and "firing" a wooden cannon.

Ned Hector was a "free Negro." Thousands of African-Americans fought on both sides during the American Revolution. Their experiences are commemorated in a traveling exhibit, "Oh Freedom! Blacks on the Battlefield and in the Aftermath of the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey." The role of Ned Hector will be played by Noah Lewis, a professional interpreter of the American Revolution. This living history presentation will begin at 1:30 PM and be repeated at 3:00 PM. Admission is free.

The exhibit features images of original documents, engravings and colorful photographs. It will be on display at the Indian King Tavern Museum during the month of September.

## HALLOWEEN TIME

by Nancy Martin

It's almost October again and soon we will be smelling the familiar fall scents and hearing the crackling of leaves under our feet. This year we are having something new -- a luncheon for children and adults, on October 25, 2009 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The charge will be \$10.00 for boys and girls and \$10.00 for accompanying adults. All children are welcome from kindergarten through fifth grade. There will be prizes for the best Witch and Warlock Costume.

We'll have lots of games with a Halloween focus, great things to eat and scary objects to see. Would you like to try some eyeball punch, chopped finger sandwiches or blood icing cookies? Come out to see for yourself and join in the fun. It will be an afternoon you won't forget quickly.

Once again the Historical Society will be having the Historic Haddonfield Ghost Tours highlighting wonderful old homes with interesting stories about them. The tours, which will be held on October 16 and 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, will start at the Library on Haddon Avenue. Tickets are \$8.00 and can be purchased at either the Library or at Greenfield Hall. Please call the Library if the weather is inclement to make sure the tour has not been canceled. If canceled, the rain date would be the next night, Saturday, October 17 or 24.

Finally don't forget the Haddonfield Parade the night before Halloween and the **Haunted House** following the event at Greenfield Hall. There is SCARY fun for all and wonderful entertainment for adults and children under the tent, once you tour the house, IF YOU SURVIVE. The charge at the door is \$3 per adult and \$2 per child.

So come, walk through the fog, paint a pumpkin, make a craft, and get something to eat. Make the 2009 Halloween in Greenfield Hall the most "spooktacular" ever!

# IDENTITY CRISIS

by Constance McCaffrey

I didn't know that ghosts could write but walking home the other night I passed some furniture in the neighbors' trash.

At a broken table on a three legged chair sat a green glowing figure with stringy hair.

With a feather pen and some tattered paper the creature wrote amid a vapor of yellow fog.

I stopped and hid behind a tree.

What the creature wrote, I could not see, but write it did, pages and pages.

I thought it could be the story of ages.

Then in an instant, the ghost disappeared. I looked behind me and all around and feared it would jump up and scare me.

How could I explain what I had seen?
Would everyone say it was just a bad dream?
There, left behind was the tattered book.
I dared go closer to take a look.

What was written, what was his story?
Did it drip with blood, was it horribly gory?
Did he write about torture and everything mean?
What he wrote, what I read, what the ghost said,
written in ink red, purple and green
over and over
Saying....

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO BE... FOR HALLOWEEN!

# HALLOWEEN IN GREENFIELD HALL

by Ruth Sine

the Histor the Haunt Parade, an Mischief M

Soon it will be time for one of our favorite events of the Historical Society: Haunted Greenfield Hall. This year, the Haunted House will follow the town-wide Halloween Parade, and we will be ready to scare and delight you on Mischief Night.

If you have not seen Greenfield Hall's tremendous transformation, be sure to be here. Our local history center changes into a habitat for witches, wizards, and ghosts. Bats and rats inhabit every corner. And as always, there are refreshments and activities in our lovely renovated garden out back. Admission is \$3 per adult and \$2 per child (under 12). Come and see the best Haunted House in New Jersey!



# Something New for HALLOWEEN at the Historical Society of Haddonfield

# A WITCHES & WARLOCKS LUNCHEON

Sunday, October 25, 2009 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon in Greenfield Hall

You MUST come as a WITCH or a WARLOCK

# SPOOKY FUN FOR ALL

Parade of costumes
Prizes
Games and Activities
Refreshments

Pre-paid reservations mandatory and limited

Adults \$10.00 each

Boys and Girls - Kindergarten through Grade 5 - \$10.00 each

Call the office at 856-429-4594 to make your reservations and then send a check, made out to HSH, to

Historical Society of Haddonfield 343 Kings Highway East Haddonfield NJ 08033

# MOVING HOUSES AROUND AND ABOUT - Part VI

### THE OLD BARN IN THE "PLAYING FIELD" -- NOW LINDEN AVENUE

# by Helen Mountney

Binney & Smith, makers of CRAYOLA, surely missed the boat by not having ROOKWOOD Blue Green colored crayons and pencils in their famous yellow boxes! They probably would have sold many more of these boxes if they had. Actually, it is a beautiful bluish green, or maybe it is really a greenish blue. It was left to the Sherwin-Williams Paint Company to put that color on their charts, and presently, that is the main color of the Joseph F. Kay house at 70 Linden Avenue, which is trimmed with "DOWNING Sand" and "DOWNING Terra Cotta". These colors were chosen with the guidance and some research performed by Joan Aiken in 1989. The history of this house is almost as exciting as the colors used on the exterior.

Joseph F. Kay was born in September of 1825 on the farm of his parents, Joseph Kay (born in March of 1794) and Mary G. Kay (born in July of 1798) in Ellisburg, now a part of Cherry Hill. Joseph saw his older brother Isaac's house (which was built in 1860) at 29 West Main Street (now Kings Highway West), and he bought the lot next door at 23 West Main Street in April of 1865 for \$1125.00 from Samuel K. Wilkins, a local dry goods merchant. He then made plans to have a house built similar to his brother's. At that time, he and his young family were living at 108 Washington Avenue. This was to be quite handy for the two Kay families since not only were Joseph and Isaac Kay brothers, but they married sisters, Hannah Ann and Sarah Jessup, daughters of John B. and Ann Jessup, members of a large, prominent Gloucester County family. Joseph married Hannah Ann Jessup on November 9, 1848. The Jessups were well-known farmers in their county and were involved in small manufacturing ventures. Politics also played a large part in their lives.

This large, Italianate-style house (a large square house with a flat roof and ornamental brackets under the soffits) was finished in 1868. The house was a large, three-story structure, complete with a parlour, reception room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, five bedrooms and a bath on the second floor, and two rooms on the third floor. It also had several white marble fireplaces, decorative moldings, and several ceiling medallions. During the first four years, it was either empty or occupied by tenants and then the Joseph Kay family moved into it in March of 1872. Our historical records do not reveal why the Kays did not move into the new home as soon as it was finished, but we do wonder why.

Joseph Kay was an active person, both in this community and at the First Baptist Church here in Haddonfield where he held positions as a deacon and as a trustee. He and his brother were instrumental and financially helpful when the church purchased the property at 37 East Main Street in the late 1870's for its first parsonage. According to the church's records, Joseph and his wife were both baptized in Hopkins Pond! He served on the Board of Street Commissioners of Haddonfield as Treasurer for ten years and as President for two years. This was then the town's governing body. He worked as a Conductor for the Camden and Atlantic Railroad which was the railroad line that ran through Haddonfield from 1854 to 1883 from Camden to Atlantic City, linking this area to Philadelphia via the ferry boat system crossing the Delaware River from Camden. In 1883, the Pennsylvania Railroad took over this line, but in 1933, the South Jersey operations of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Reading Railroad were consolidated and merged to form the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line. In doing this, the railroad line was extended to Ocean City, Wildwood and Cape May. The PRSL ran until 1966 when construction began for the PATCO system which began operating in February of 1969 between Lindenwold and 16<sup>th</sup> and Locust Streets in Philadelphia. How convenient a commute was that for Joseph Kay since his home was only a short walk from either of the original railroad stations in town.

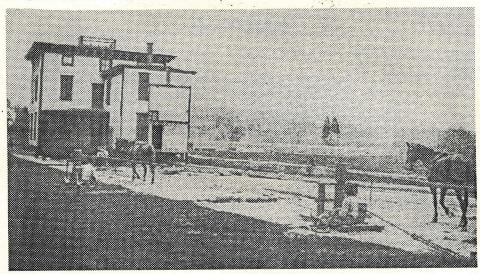
When Mr. Kay died in January of 1894, he left one living child, John J. Kay and one grandchild, Jessup Kay. Hannah Ann had predeceased him by eight months, having died in May of 1893. Hannah Ann Kay was buried in the Kay family lot in the Haddonfield Baptist Cemetery where six of their young children had been buried.

Charles C. Jessup, Hannah Ann's cousin, and George D. Stewart were the Executors of Mr. Kay's will and they soon put the house up for sale.

In October of 1894, Rebecca Haines, wife of Hamilton Haines of Weston, Pennsylvania, purchased the house. Mrs. Haines is listed in the 1901 Haddonfield Directory as being a dressmaker at 115 Lincoln Avenue. In June of 1899, the house was sold to Melvern Lyons of Haddonfield. Four months later, it was sold to G. Franklin Davis, then sold again after two months to the Real Estate and Investment Company of Haddonfield which probably intended the site as access to a new street, Linden Avenue.

Both of the last two individual owners were local residents and real estate speculators. However, neither made an obvious profit on their transactions, having bought and sold the property quickly, although Davis was involved with the Real Estate and Investment Company of Haddonfield.

Haddonfield records show that Linden Avenue was cut through to West Main Street in early 1900. Shortly before that, the empty Kay house was moved by horse and wagon "across the playing fields," as that area was known, to its present location at Linden and Euclid Avenues. What a grand sight to see that must have been!



Across the fields to Euclid Avenue

Isaac Kay's house remained in its original location on West Main Street until the late 1920's when a builder wanted to erect the Haddonfield Manor apartment house, now at the corner of Linden Avenue and Kings Highway West. Unfortunately, the Isaac Kay's house was demolished.

After the Joseph Kay house was moved, an iron fence was installed along the Euclid Avenue side of the property only, and in 1990 the elaborate wooden fence (complete with polychromatic detailing) fashioned to replicate the fence around the property of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln's home in Springfield, Illinois, was installed around the property. Later, arbor gateways were added, giving the property quite a distinctive appearance.

Seventy Linden Avenue, was always referred to as "the old barn in the middle of the playing fields" obviously because of the original shape, very square with a flat roof, and because of its location. The house was either rented or vacant off and on for the next six years until Robert Taylor, a wholesale tea merchant, and his wife, Stella, purchased the property in 1906 and moved from their Chestnut Street home with their three daughters, Stella, Bess, and Sarah, and their son Robert, Jr. Robert, Jr. liked to tell his family and friends that he was born on the third floor of this house, but he really was born about eight years before the family moved to Linden Avenue. Many years later, Robert, Jr. and his wife, Sarah, lived near the corner of West End and Euclid Avenues, only two blocks from his family home. Of course, that would have been fairly typical in those years. Robert and Stella Taylor had electricity installed in 70 Linden Avenue soon after they moved in. Electricity had come to Haddonfield in 1890.

All of the Taylor children attended the public schools in town. This house went on to become a very active home. Many high school parties and dances, inside and outside, were given there, and many over-night guests and boarders stayed there. Several prominent sports-affiliated persons visited there, especially coaches and visiting field hockey teams and later trainers and jockeys from Garden State Race Track.

After daughter Stella graduated from Haddonfield High School in 1909, she went on to graduate from Temple University's "Normal School," a two-year program for becoming a teacher. Stella taught physical education and was known for teaching swimming, particularly at Mountwell Pool, for many years. She married Charles Alexander from Haddonfield. They made their home at the corner of Kings Highway and Grove Street, where he maintained an insurance business. They had no children. Their interesting house supposedly had a basement "doorway" leading to a passageway under Kings Highway.

When Bess was in high school, she was adamant about participating in sports, but competitive sports for girls were almost non-existent in the schools in Haddonfield at that time. Bess had met Constance Appleby from England who brought girl's field hockey to some of the colleges and boarding schools in the United States, and Bess immediately loved the sport. She and her sister, Sarah, met with Mr. Dechant, the principal of Haddonfield High School, then located at the corner of Chestnut Street and Lincoln Avenue, and pressured him enough that he permitted them to introduce, teach, and coach the game for their fellow female students. Bess was the Captain of the first field hockey team at Haddonfield High School along with being Athletic Editor of *The Shield*, the school year book. That was in the fall of 1909—just one hundred years ago. The rest is history at our high school.

Mr. Samuel Wood let the girls' field hockey team use a field of his on Haddon Avenue at the foot of Euclid Avenue. This field was mowed and cared for by both male and female classmates and they also readied the field for hockey games. Since the Taylor's house sat near the school's playing field, the Taylor girls must have enjoyed how convenient it was for them to carry out their love of sports, particularly after a tiring workout.

Bess was one of twenty-two who graduated from Haddonfield High School in the spring of 1910 and Sarah continued to play field hockey there until she graduated in 1913. Robert Taylor, the family patriarch, died in 1915 at the age of sixty-five. He was buried in Harleigh Cemetery as were other family members later on. Fortunately, the family was able to remain in their home following his death.

Like her older sister, Bess went on to the Normal School program at Temple University. There was an agreement with Temple University, and a great opportunity for her, that she would coach their field hockey team for the two years she was there. Her lengthy commute was by train, ferry boat, and trolley car to do this. She was elected to the Temple University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1976.

The two younger Taylor "girls" remained single. Bess taught physical education, health, and first aid at Gloucester City High School for a few years and then moved on to do the same at Woodbury High School for thirty-five years where she was elected a member of the Woodbury High School Coaches Hall of Fame. While she was coaching at Woodbury High School, her basketball, field hockey, and tennis teams won many championships. Coincidentally, one of the students at Gloucester City High School when Bess Taylor was there was Wanda Hague Albright. She remembers Miss Bess Taylor as being a nice, caring person, but said she was a no-nonsense teacher and coach! Mrs. Albright is the mother of Lee Albright, who is the present owner since 1987 with her husband, Gerard Haubrich, of 70 Linden Avenue.

Bess Taylor received an All-Philadelphia Field Hockey letter in 1918 and was active in the West Jersey Field Hockey Association and more than likely was instrumental in its formation and became a charter member. She was also active in the United States Field Hockey Association. Bess and Sarah were also avid tennis players for many years, and the two were especially noted for playing doubles in tournaments.

Bess and Sarah lived in the family home at 70 Linden Avenue until Sarah died in 1964. Bess continued living there until she died in 1985 at the age of 93. During the racing days at Garden State Race Track in Cherry Hill, they rented rooms to horse trainers and jockeys. The famous jockey, Willie Shoemaker, stayed there during several racing seasons. Also many single male employees of RCA, boarded there, often helping with some of the outdoor chores.

In 1993, Bess was honored, posthumously, as a charter member of the Haddonfield Alumni Association's Sports Hall of Fame at its Inaugural Banquet.

In 1985, William Rohrer, from Haddon Township, bought the house which then went to Mimi Rohrer in a divorce settlement. It was during this period that the basement floor was cemented.

In the spring of 1987, Mrs. Albright happened to see a For Sale sign in the front yard at 70 Linden Avenue and immediately called her daughter to go look at it (actually Mrs. Albright really wanted to see the inside of this house). Well, following that house inspection, things moved rapidly and Lee and Gerard moved into it as owners in August of that year! They have worked diligently ever since to restore this house to its original period, and even had the aluminum siding removed. There are still non-working gas light fixtures in several rooms.

Joseph and Hannah Ann Kay and Robert and Stella Taylor, both couples being long-time owners of this property, would certainly be quite pleased with how history related to this house they loved has evolved, and would be delighted to see the extensive and appropriate holiday and seasonal decorations displayed in the yard throughout the year at 70 Linden Avenue.

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# MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT

by Barbara Hilgen

I am happy to list the names of all our new and renewing members, along with those who made a donation in addition to the cost of membership or in lieu of membership. The officers and trustees are grateful to each and every one of you for helping to make it possible for us to continue serving our community.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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Please use this form to invite your friends to join us by becoming members of the Society.

Susanne B. McK. Weaver

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009-2010

I (We) would like to join the Historical Society of Haddonfield at the following level:

( ) Contributing Member	\$ 35
( ) Senior Citizen	25
( ) Contributing Household	55
( ) Patron Member	150
( ) Patron Household	250
( ) Founder's Society	1,000
( ) Founder's Household	1.500

Name	Email		
Address	Telephone		

Please write check to Historical Society of Haddonfield and mail to the Society at 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield NJ 08033.

# www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org

SLEL-621-958

SPECIAL HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 and the first Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 in the afternoon

# RESEARCH LIBRARY HOURS

from 1:00 to 4:00

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday afternoons and the first Sunday afternoon of the month

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# **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

2009		
September 9		Board of Trustees meeting, Greenfield Hall, 7:30 PM
	27	Sunday afternoon general meeting 2 to 4 PM. Program, Perkins House, 132 Warwick Road
		Meeting will be held at the Haddonfield Home at above address
October	16	Historic Haddonfield Ghost Tour, 7:00 to 8:30, starting at Public Library
	17	Rain date for above tour
	23	Historic Haddonfield Ghost Tour, 7:00 to 8:30, starting at Public Library
	24	Rain date for above tour
	25	Witches and Warlocks Luncheon, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Greenfield Hall
	30	Haunted Greenfield Hall following the town parade
Novembe	r 4	Board of Trustees meeting, Greenfield Hall, 7:30 PM
	8	Octoberfest
	18	General meeting, 7:30 PM in Greenfield Hall, program TBA
December 12		Holly Festival, Fund Raiser, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Greenfield Hall
2010	)	
January		Appraisal Day, Sunday afternoon, 1:00 to 5:00 at Greenfield Hall, Appraiser: Shaula Wright. \$5.00 per item, limit three items